

BILL # SB 1081

TITLE: animal and ecological terrorism

SPONSOR: Verschoor

STATUS: As Introduced

REQUESTED BY: Senate

PREPARED BY: Tony Vidale

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

SB 1081 creates the crime of animal and ecological terrorism and requires individuals convicted of any terrorism offense to register with the Sheriff in the county of residence and annually obtain a state identification card or driver license. The bill also requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish and maintain a Web site and registry of individuals convicted of any terrorism offense and authorizes the department to charge and collect a fee to cover implementation costs.

Estimated Impact

JLBC Staff estimates this bill will have a minimal fiscal impact. The bill would impact the State Department of Corrections (ADC), DPS, and the Department of Transportation (ADOT), which would experience minimal costs to register convicted offenders, establish and maintain a Web site, and issue annual identification to convicted offenders, respectively. The JLBC Staff estimates a minimal cost to the relevant state agencies based on a low number of convictions (0 to date) and the assumption that the bill does not require DPS to create a new stand-alone Web site. In addition, the Judiciary may incur minimal administrative costs associated with establishing a new crime.

The amount of revenue collected by DPS under the provisions of the bill cannot be determined; however, JLBC Staff estimates a minimal amount due to the low number of convictions.

DPS estimated the cost of SB 1081 to be \$235,000 in start-up costs to develop the Web site and build the database, and approximately \$35,000 per year to maintain the Web site. This estimate was based on the cost to develop and maintain DPS' existing Sex Offender Web site. The Sex Offender Web site and database, however, contain a large number of individuals (approximately 14,000) and has Web-mapping features not required in the terrorism site. This estimate differs from the JLBC estimate in that the department based costs on a new stand-alone Web site and database instead of working off an existing Web site and database as assumed in the JLBC Staff estimate.

The Judiciary did not provide a cost estimate for the bill but believes the bill could result in additional court, programming, and educational costs. The JLBC Staff assumes that any of the costs identified by the Judiciary will be borne by Arizona counties and would, therefore, not impact the state General Fund. See the Local Government Impact for additional information.

ADC and ADOT did not provide cost estimates for this bill.

Analysis

Under Arizona's current terrorism statute, there have been 4 arrests made, which resulted in no convictions. In addition, since 1987, there have been 4 documented incidents by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of animal or ecological terrorism in Arizona. These incidents did not result in any convictions. The JLBC estimate assumes there would not be a significant increase in the number of arrests or convictions as a result of SB 1081. Our estimate also assumes that the Web site and database be developed and maintained by the existing department Web master or by the current provider for the Sex Offender Web site. The bill also authorizes DPS to charge a fee to individuals required to register with the department. Considering a small number of convictions, revenue collections would be minimal. The bill does not specify what fund the fees would be deposited into.

SB 1081 would require ADC to forward the convicted offenders records to DPS and the Sheriff of the county in which the offender intends to reside within 3 days of release. JLBC Staff estimates a cost of \$40 per offender, which includes 1 package each, mailed to DPS and the County Sheriff of residence. The bill also would require convicted offenders to annually obtain a state driver license or identification card from ADOT. In past fiscal analysis, ADOT has reported a marginal cost of \$9.00 per license or identification card transaction and ADOT does charge a fee ranging between \$10 and \$25 (depending on the individual's age) for each transaction. Given the number of arrests and convictions to date, the JLBC Staff believes these new requirements can be met with exiting resources.

Local Government Impact

The JLBC Staff assumes that any additional court costs associated with SB 1081 will be borne by Arizona counties. Considering the low number of arrests and convictions, JLBC Staff estimates a minimal fiscal impact to local government agencies. Any increase in court workload would be handled at the Superior Court level and would, therefore, not impact the state General Fund.

2/5/04